

the pulse

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Sharon Willis

Acting Vice President for External Affairs and Managing Editor

Ken Frager

Public Affairs Specialist

Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

Production Editor

MC1 Chad Hallford

Writer

Christine Creenan-Jones

Contributing Writer

Lori Fields

Layout and Design

Production

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Photo by Thomas Balfour

On the cover

Graduate School of Nursing Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist students took advantage of the National Capital Area Medical Simulation Center this summer to practice their field training skills. Pictured on the cover, students worked to set up a field sanitizer, Big Bertha, in the WAVE environment. (See story page 5)



GSN's Padden inducted as fellow in national advanced practice nursing society

by Ken Frager

Diane Padden, PhD, CRNP, an assistant professor and chair of the Department of Health, Injury, and Disease Management in the Graduate School of Nursing, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) during the society's national conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

The FAANP program was established in 2000 to recognize nurse practitioner leaders who have made outstanding contributions to health care through nurse practitioner clinical practice, research, education, or policy. Priority initiatives of FAANP are the development of leadership and mentorship programs for nurse practitioners and nurse practitioner students.

"This is recognition at the national level that Diane exemplifies the role of a nurse practitioner at the highest level," said Diane Seibert, PhD, CRNP, program director for USU's Family Nurse Practitioner Program and also a Fellow. "We are proud to have three fellows here at the GSN, all with military connections, so we are better

able to inform the nurse practitioner profession about issues within the military health system."

Fellows of the AANP are visionaries committed to the global advancement of nursing through the development of imaginative and creative future nurse practitioner leaders, and as such, hold an annual think tank to strategize about the future of nurse practitioners and health care outside the confines of traditional thinking. A limited number of nurse practitioners are selected for this highly coveted distinction each year.

AANP was founded in 1985 and is the oldest, largest, and only full-service national professional organization for nurse practitioners of all specialties. With 28,000 individual members and 145 group members, AANP represents the interests of approximately 140,000 nurse practitioners around the country. AANP continually advocates for the active role of nurse practitioners as providers of high-quality, cost-effective and personalized healthcare.



Courtesy of AANP

Dr. Diane L. Padden, second from left, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners recently. Pictured with her are (l-r) FAANP 2009-2010 Chair, Judith Berg, RN C, WHNP, FAAN, FAANP; her primary sponsor USU's Diane Seibert, PhD, CRNP, FAANP; and her secondary sponsor, USU class of 2006 alumnus Richard Ricciardi, PhD, CRNP, FAANP.

2010 Internship Program Immerses Minority Students in Prostate Cancer Research

by Ken Frager



Photo Courtesy of the CPDR

Pictured left to right: Shiv Srivastava, Ph.D., CPDR; Habib Kedir, Student, UDC; Juliet Chijioke, Student, UDC; Zainab Afzal, Student, UDC; Deepak Kumar, Ph.D., UDC; Nicola Abdul, Student, UDC; Christelle Donfack, Student, UDC; David G. McLeod, MD, JD, FACS, Director, CPDR

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Center for Prostate Disease Research (CPDR) recently completed its third consecutive summer internship program for outstanding students from the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). The program was established jointly in 2008 by the CPDR – part of USU's Department of Surgery – and the UDC, through a grant from the Department of Defense-Prostate Cancer Research Program (DoD-PCRP) award to Dr. Shiv Srivastava (PI), CPDR co-director and USU professor, and Dr. Deepak Kumar (Co-PI), Chair of the Department of Biology at UDC.

Five interns were selected for the 2010 program based on academic

achievements at UDC in prostate cancer research. CPDR provided a structured framework for the program, offering a rich multi-disciplinary prostate cancer translational research environment that is credited for landmark discoveries. The students completed their program by presenting their training and research accomplishments at USU to leaders from the participating organizations. Dr. Taduru Sreenath, CPDR assistant director, served as the primary coordinator for the program.

The 2010 interns were:

- Nicola Abdul, mentor: Taduru Sreenath, Ph.D.: “*TMPRSS2-Ets Re-*

lated Gene Fusions in Mouse Model for Prostate Cancer”

- Zainab Afzal, mentor: Jane Hudak, RN, Ph.D.: “*Shadowing Patients with Prostate Cancer*”
- Juliet Chijioke, mentor: Hua Li, M.D., Ph.D.: “*Regulation of Androgen Receptor Levels Through the PMEPA1-NEDD4-1 Feedback Loop*”
- Christelle Donfack, mentor: Ahmed Mohamed, M.D., Ph.D.: “*Characterization of ERG Protein in Prostate Cancer and Other Tumor Cell Lines*”
- Habib Kedir, mentor: Gyorgy Petrovics, Ph.D.: “*Urine Based Prostate Cancer Diagnostic Assay Development*”

Alumna named VA Chief Officer for Public Health Programs

by Sharon Willis

Victoria J. Davey, PhD, MPH, RN, has been appointed to the position of Chief Officer, Public Health and Environmental Hazards (13), for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Dr. Davey has served in the office since 1999, most recently as Acting Chief Officer and, since 2006, as Deputy Chief Officer. Dr. Davey has extensive knowledge of all the programs in OPHEH having had senior level oversight of OPHEH's responsibilities, operations, and planning. She is a national expert on planning and preparedness for pandemic influenza and other public health/biodefense-related initiatives and has been principal for VHA's response to the 2009 novel H1N1 outbreak. Her career has been a combination of clinical and scientific public health program management, leadership, and academics.

Before joining VA, Dr. Davey was Associate Clinical Director at



Photo from UMS Archives

the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health, where she managed clinical research operations for the four large intramural

laboratories that were actively involved with human trials studying HIV/AIDS, autoimmune disorders, complement disorders, host defense disorders, and numerous other infectious and parasitic diseases.

Dr. Davey earned her PhD in nursing science in 2009 and an MPH degree in 1987 from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. She earned an AB in biology from Smith College (1977), a BS in nursing from Boston University (1978), and was a Senior Executive Fellow of the JFK School of Government at Harvard University (1992). Dr. Davey has had numerous public health peer-reviewed abstracts, oral presentations, articles, and chapters over her career.

Dr. Davey became Chief Officer for VA public health programs in June 2010, having served as Acting Chief Officer since September 2009.

GSN welcomes new military leadership

by MC1 Chad Hallford



Courtesy Photo

Army Lt. Col. Iluminada Chinneth

Army Lt. Col. Iluminada Chinneth earlier this summer assumed the duties of Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) Commandant and Assistant

Dean of Student Affairs, replacing Lt. Col. Kandace Wolf, who continued service in her next assignment at Madigan Army Medical Center.

As Chinneth looks forward to the challenges of operating in a multi-service, multi-mission environment, she brings with her more than a decade of Army Nursing experience. She has served in a variety of assignments, both overseas and stateside, among them family nurse practitioner and Deputy Commander for Nursing and Patient Care Services.

She plans to use her experience to show GSN students how to simultaneously use the skills of leadership and management as they transition into advanced nursing positions across many disciplines.

"I hope to teach the nurses by example, to lead from the front," said Chinneth.

As the Office of the Commandant is tasked with upholding and enforcing military standards of its students, Chinneth describes herself as "the voice for the GSN to the University administration." And, according to Chinneth, she has taken her students' interests judiciously.

"Be your word, because your honesty and integrity are paramount," said Chinneth.

As her students progress from the typical roles in staff nursing positions to those responsible for decision-making as primary care managers or other independent roles in clinical care, Chinneth hopes to "help enrich the students' environment in which they learn so they will be ready for the challenges of providing healthcare in any environment when they leave USU."

Passing of a USU leader

by Sharon Willis

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) recently lost a beloved friend, colleague and leader when Army Col. (Dr.) David Burris, chair of the Norman M. Rich Department of Surgery, lost his valiant fight with cancer on Aug. 3.

Burris graduated from USU's F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine in 1982. He completed his surgical residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and later served as staff surgeon, and then chief of general surgery at the 98th General Hospital in Nurnberg. He followed that with a trauma/critical care fellowship from 1992-1994. Burris then returned to USU to serve on the surgery department faculty, and while assigned there, deployed to Iraq to serve with the 912th Forward Surgical Team in Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was later named chair of the department following a nationwide search.



Photo by Thomas Balfour

According to a statement by David B. Hoyt, M.D., Executive Director of the American College of Surgeons, "Doctor Burris was a true leader in American Surgery who was totally committed to training and leading surgeons who serve the military and our soldiers in harm's way. His leadership and commitment will be missed by all who knew him and who had the privilege of working with him."

In March 2009, Burris received the ACM Committee on Trauma's ATLS

Meritorious Achievement Award, which honors the recipient for unselfish commitment and dedication to the ATLS program. He was presented with the Legion of Merit medal in a special ceremony in June 2010 by Army Surgeon General (Dr.) Eric Schoomaker. The Legion of Merit is awarded for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. During the presentation, Schoomaker remarked that Burris had been "a symbol of Army medicine" and described Burris as "someone we all can take great pride in here at USU, as a great soldier and medic and quite deserving of this honor."

A funeral service will be held Dec. 2 in the Old Post Chapel on Fort Myer at 11 a.m., followed by burial with Full Military Honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Turning lemons into lemonade

by Ken Krager

"Sometimes you just need to make the best of what you have...sort of like making lemonade from lemons," said Army Col. Elizabeth Vane, assistant professor with the Graduate School of Nursing's Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist program. And that's what Vane and her team did when their planned operational readiness exercises, which normally occurred during Operation Bushmaster, changed.

"We're a small yet up and coming program," said Vane, "and our unique training needs sometimes leave us at the mercy of others. So when the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine (MEM) took the operating room elements away from Operation Bushmaster, we had to identify other means for training and testing our students."

Taking full advantage of the resources available at the National Capital Area Medical Simulation Center (Sim Center), the clinical and teaching support from colleagues at Malcolm Grow Medical Center and at Fort Dietrick, the team from the Air Force C-STARS program from the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, and the knowledge and skills of MEM staff, Vane said the students received so much more than they ever would have at Bushmaster.

"Students had the realistic sights and sounds made possible by using the Wide Area Virtual Environment (WAVE) at the Sim Center and the personal attention of nearly 50 trainers for five students, which wouldn't have been possible within the Bushmaster exercise," said Vane.



Photo by Ken Krager

Doug Rink, adjunct assistant professor in the USU Department of Military and Emergency Medicine, discussed military code of conduct, law of war, and other critical topics with PCNS students during operational readiness training in July.

Students participated in six stations that included clinical skills, code of conduct, law of war, and other operational readiness assessments, during the full-day exercise. "The students were exposed to all types of contingency exercises that they might find themselves in after graduation, including combat, peacekeeping and humanitarian," said Vane.

The Sim Center will host an Open House for the USU community on October 4. Additional details will be made available closer to the date.

You Make a Difference—Brigade Commander's Message on Suicide

by Navy Capt. (Dr.) Tanis M. Batsel Stewart and Navy Chaplain Bruce Mentzer

During September, the USU Brigade is joining a nationwide focus on preventing suicide. Though it is easy to believe that everyone at USU emphasizes the mutual support and helping environment necessary to reduce suicidal thoughts and behaviors, it is still good to stop and remember the many positive resources available here at USU and throughout the military.

"More than 50% of us have been impacted by a suicide among our family, close friends, or colleagues," said Navy Capt. (Dr.) Tanis M. Batsel Stewart, USU Brigade Commander. "The stress on the individual contemplating suicide and the toll any attempted or completed suicide takes on all of us is enormous. I urge each member of the University community to be vigilant for indications that another person is suffering, or that you yourself are in trouble. Please, ask if you can help another; ask if you need help from another."

Having the strength to reach out for support might not be the first reaction, as most people are used to going it alone or just do not know where to go for help. Resources and opportunities for help are available. Often, simple contact with an individual thinking about suicide might make all the difference. While taking the time to tell someone that they are valued might not be easy, a real life example of one way is recorded at www.blueribbon-movie.com.

Phone support for suicide prevention is available 24/7 at the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK or 8255). Military OneSource also is standing by to help at 1-800-342-9647. Call 911 or the NNMC emergency desk at 301-295-4810, or ask for the NNMC Duty Chaplain from the NNMC Quarter-Deck at 301-295-4611 (Option 3). The USU Chaplain is almost always

available at 240-274-8144 or by numbers on the www.usuhs.mil/chaplain webpage.

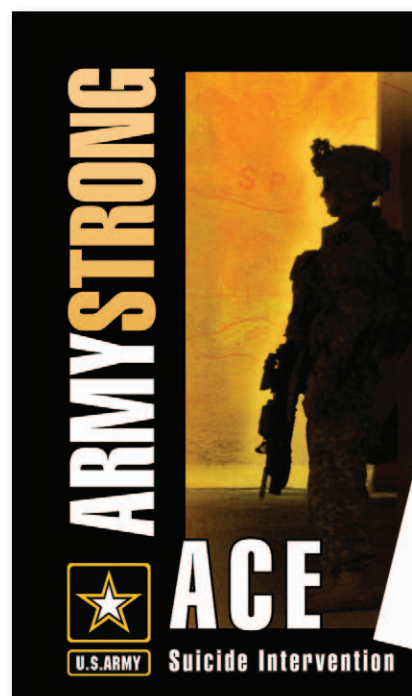
Once the emergency that suicidal behavior can bring has passed, longer term help is available from family physicians, counselors, social workers, pastors, or mental health professionals, all of whom can assist in finding appropriate resources. Learning new ways of coping and tapping into the reservoir of personal experiences can lead to a broader, more resilient attitude during hard times.

Helping someone else through suicide or helping others left in the wake of a suicide also can be challenging. Current military and civilian training focuses on the need to have an A-C-E, to Ask-Care-Escort. Ask about suicidal thoughts. Then, it is helpful to simply Care for someone at risk by listening without judgment or assigning motives. And finally, remain with the suicidal

person and Escort them to help as soon as possible. If someone has had a suicide in their family, they might find the TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors), at www.taps.org or 800-959-TAPS, to be a very helpful resource.

It is important to connect with the community and have a healthy spiritual, physical, and mental routine to make a difference in other's lives.

Many other resources are available online. The Army's new video series at www.preventsuicide.army.mil is extremely insightful into helping prevent suicides. Military Pathways (www.militarypathways.com) offers a confidential self-assessment for general feelings and thoughts and can be a doorway to seeking help. USU also can be a resource. The USU Clinic is at 301-295-3630 and the Brigade Chaplain, Chaplain Bruce Mentzer, is at 301-295-3193 or 240-274-8144.



Briefs

ESC Burrito sale

The Enlisted Social Committee will be host a Breakfast Burrito sale Sept. 16 in the atrium outside of the Sanford auditorium. The sale begins at 6 a.m. and will end at 9:30 a.m. or when all items have been sold.

For more information ask an ESC member or contact the ESC by e-mail at esc@usuhs.mil. The ESC meets the first Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m. in the small dining room unless otherwise rescheduled.

Professional activities

The Department of Defense and USU policy requires that all employees, both military and civilian, receive approval for engaging in any activity outside their work environment, which involves their professional expertise or government occupation (whether or not compensated), as well as any activity that involves compensation. This includes serving on the Board of a Non-Federal Organization.

This approval is required prior to engaging in the activity. In order to get approval, any employee can complete a USU Form 1004. This completed form must be approved and signed by each department chair or activity head.

These forms are available in the General Counsel's office or online at the USU OGC Web site. Completed forms must be turned in to the General Counsel's office. The form will be routed to the appropriate dean, brigade commander or USU president.

Once processing is completed, a copy of the approved form will be returned to the employee for the employee's records.

RCR Education Conference

Registration is now open for the Sept. 28th Responsible Conduct of Research Educational Conference being held at the USU's Sanford Auditorium.

The conference is being sponsored by the USU Office of the President and the Graduate School of Nursing

in partnership with the new Navy Medicine Institute for the Medical Humanities and Research Leadership and the Smithsonian Institution's Office of Sponsored Projects.

The free conference, entitled "Promoting the Global Good: The Social Responsibility of Scientists and Researchers," will address an emergent subject in RCR Education—the social responsibility of scientists.

This was recently included in new NIH RCR education requirements. The conference may be able to assist individuals with completing RCR education requirements.

Full registration information, including directions, are available for download at: http://www.thechiefinformationgroup.com/conference/usuhs/index.php?c_id=15

Using Computer Resources

Security incidents continue to be a drain to limited USU Information Assurance manpower. The following highlight current DoD policy and best practices:

Personnel must not install self-coded or non-licensed software on network resources; add, remove, configure, or attempt to modify USU computer operating systems or programs; move audio/visual or network cables, computers or attempt to connect personal computers to the network including MDL and lecture hall spaces; connect personal devices except for those previously authorized by NOC; download pornographic material and store or display offensive material, such as racist literature, sexually harassing or obscene language or material or store or process classified information on any USU system.

Personnel must not permit unauthorized individuals access to a government-owned or government-operated system or program; or access online gambling, games and social engineering sites.

Helpdesk Closure

The NOC helpdesk is closed for training on Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m.

During this time, you can leave a voicemail message at 295-9800, utilize the HEAT Self Service (<http://www.usuhs.mil/uis/forms/trouble.html>), or email help@usuhs.mil.

If an emergency should arise, please call 295-9870.

Exercise/Fitness Areas

Physical fitness training should be conducted in designated areas.

The only authorized space for PT within the university is room G060.

The campus' Student Community Lounge area is also authorized, but only during specified PFT testing dates or times.

USU-HJF Military Medicine Symposium: Advancing Public-Private Partnerships

Thursday, September 23, 2010

7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Omni Shoreham Hotel

Washington, D.C.

For the full agenda, along with registration and exhibitor information, visit www.hjfc3.org/events/2010-symposium/.

For further information, contact Jackie Vandermeersch at (301) 294-1441 or jvandermeersch@hjfc.org.

Army Colonel David Sutherland, special assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for warrior and family support, Nancy Berglass, director of the Iraq Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund (IADIF), and principal, Berglass Community Investment Consulting, and Army Colonel (Ret.) Charles Hoge, M.D., a neuropsychiatry consultant to the Office of the Army Surgeon General and senior scientist at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, will be featured speakers at the symposium.



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